

Now, let there be a gentle breeze, and by placing the feathery balls upon the windward side of the "green," the race is off, without scoring, unless the exact rate of speed is to be recorded, when a scratch line must be drawn, and the usual rules of the race course observed.

From the above the reader has gathered between the lines something of the lightness and airy texture of a subject that may engage the attention of a lover of plants when he is away from home and the weightier matters of life are purposely left behind.

While drinking in the balm of the long-leaved pine, with watch in hand one may test the speed of a pet tumbler, and in the excitement—and it will be thrilling at times—he may lose sight of the real meaning of the whole construction of the racer and the marvelous mechanism that serves the end of seed depression.

It is a lofty motherly instinct in plants, if you please, that has caught the attention, and while it provides amusement in this particular expression, yet, in the last analysis it serves to polish an old thought, namely, the debt to the species is final for the physical nature. But—

Upon the world of matter rests an atmosphere of thought
And in the upper reaches the Head-thinker's home is sought.
From facts to correlations, then these subtle laws combine—
'Tis called by many 'ologies, this lure of the Divine.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.,
June, 1916

MYOSURUS ARISTATUS BENTH.

BY IVAR TIDESTROM

In his catalogue of Geyer's plants* from the Upper Missouri, the Oregon Territory, and the intervening portion of the Rocky Mountains, Sir W. J. Hooker refers all the specimens of *Myosurus* collected on the trip to *Myosurus minimus* L.

On pages 458-459 of the volume cited,* a revision of *Myosurus* is made by Hooker, so far as the Geyer plants are concerned, and another species, *Myosurus aristatus* Benth. is added. Hooker states in part: "Mr. Bentham has kindly pointed out to me an

* London Journal of Botany, 6: 67, 1847.

error into which I have fallen, in the omission of a second species of *Myosurus* in Mr. Geyer's list of plants, given at p. 67 of this volume. Among my eight specimens of *Myosurus* from Mr. Geyer (his No. 332), one is certainly a distinct species; and, as it proves, identical with that recently described by Mr. Gay, from Chili (and which I also possess from Bridges, his last Chilean Collection), under the name of *M. apetalus*. My Chilean specimen, as well as that from North America, does bear petals; the name is therefore inadmissible. That of Mr. Bentham is unexceptionable, and at once indicates the most important specific distinction."

From the foregoing statement it appears that the name of *M. aristatus* was first applied by Bentham to the Geyer plant, the locality of which is given as "Borders of pools in the Gamas's (Camas) Prairie of the Coeur d'Aleine, Rocky Mountains," in Idaho. Mr. Bentham even attributes the species to Geyer in a note under the genus *Myosurus* in *Flora Australiensis* (1: 8. 1863).

Myosurus aristatus ranges from Washington and Montana to California and New Mexico.

Fig. *b*, accompanying this paper, was drawn from a specimen of *Myosurus aristatus* collected on Stansbury Island, Great Salt Lake, Utah, by Sereno Watson, June, 1869 (enlarged 12 diameters).

MYOSURUS APETALUS Gay

Unfortunately there are no specimens in Washington representing this species, so in the identifying of it we are limited to the description and illustration given by Gay.* Fig. 1 of the plate cited illustrates the whole plant, Figs. *b* and *d* the mature fruit and the achenes respectively. The latter figures are enlarged—probably 12 times. The dorsal side of the apparently compressed achene is shown to be keeled with one large tooth in the middle. This is distinctly stated by Gay, who describes the fruit as follows: "El fruto forma una espiga cónica, áspera, ó erizada, con las cápsulas algo apretadas y como empizarradas á manera de escamas: cada una tiene dos líneas escasas de largo,

* *Historia física y política de Chile* (Bot.), 1: 31, pl. 1, f. 1 (*a-d*), 1845.

ovalada, un poco comprimida y carinada, con un diente recio en un costado, y termina el otro una punta gruesa formada por el estilo.”

The fruit of the North American plant does not show the

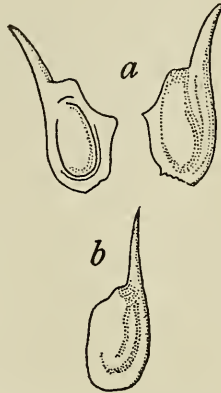


FIG. 1. Achenes of (a) *Myosurus apetalus* and (b) *M. aristatus*.

prominent tooth which characterizes the Chilean plant. This difference has probably been overlooked by all who have referred our species to the latter, a difference which, if constant, should suffice to keep as distinct two forms already separated geographically by thousands of miles.

The accompanying figures and key will serve to elucidate the difference between the two species: Figure *a* is an exact copy of the illustration by Gay* representing the achene of *M. apetalus*.

Achene with prominent keel along the ventral margin, and with a conspicuous tooth-like projection near the middle of the keel.

M. apetalus.

Achene not prominently keeled, nor toothed.

M. aristatus.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SHORTER NOTES

A NEW FORM OF CORALLORRHIZA.—On June 21, 1916, I found a clump of *Corallorrhiza* near Long's Peak Inn, Larimer Co., Colorado, growing under aspen trees with *Arnica cordifolia* and

* Historia fisca y politica de Chile (Bot.), 1: 31, pl. 1, f. 1 (*a-d*), 1845.